



31ST GREAT OHIO BICYCLE ADVENTURE · JUNE 15-22, 2019

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

GOBA

NEWS



ISSUE 1, VOLUME 31

GOBA 31: You get to choose!

As the days grow warmer and the scents of spring flowers fill the air, it's almost GOBA time!

Our host towns have been working enthusiastically to get ready to welcome up to 1,500 riders who will "Come Sail Away" on the 31st annual Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure on June 15-22.

This newsletter offers just a sampling of what they have in store for our bicycling voyage to the Lake Erie region. There is truly something for everyone.

GOBA lets you set your own pace on a large loop from Bowling Green to Fremont to Port Clinton to Oregon, then back to Bowling Green.

With two layover days in Port Clinton and one in Oregon, you'll have more opportunities to sightsee along the

Lake Erie shore, visit attractions, do optional rides or just sleep in.

Need guidance? The "GOBA Digest" returns this year with stories about places we'll visit or ride past. Two other GOBA traditions, the bike decorating contest/parade and the song contest, continue.

New for 2019 are more options on how much to ride: as many as seven days and as few as four. And the four "mandatory" days offer routes as short as 35 miles.

If you haven't signed up, register now and save! Adult registration is \$300 through April 30 (and \$325 from May 1-15). Be sure to add GOBA jerseys, T-shirts, raffle tickets and other valuable extras.

Then prepare to set sail on a memorable journey!

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Bowling Green

Start/finish location: Saturday, June 15, and Saturday, June 22

Bowling Green, Ohio, loves GOBA and is excited to welcome the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure for an overnight stay for the fifth time.

This year, the Wood County Fairgrounds and the BG Convention & Visitors Bureau will be your hosts. Convenient, monitored parking for the week will be offered across the street from the fairgrounds, and the Bowling Green High School Athletics program will assist with luggage in exchange for tips. Floor sleeping space will be available at the fairgrounds (details TBA), as will concessions from Bowling Green High School.

Four lodging properties in Bowling Green will offer a group discount rate the night of June 15 to GOBA riders who would like to sleep in a bed and enjoy a free continental breakfast.

The First Christian Church will host a lunch on Saturday, and a Slow Countryside Roll bike ride will be offered in the early afternoon. The BG City Park will offer a group rate for the City Pool and Waterpark, complete with a lazy river great for the whole family.

The Come Sail Away Slow Roll Parade & Kick Off Celebration will start at 4 p.m. as bikes adorned for the GOBA decorating contest roll from the fairgrounds to the celebration site downtown at Wooster Green. Entertainment, food trucks, ice cream and children's activities will be part of the festivities, with



Come Sail Away Slow Roll Parade & Kick Off Celebration

Decorate your bike for the Come Sail Away theme and possibly win a prize as GOBA cyclists parade from the Wood County Fairgrounds to downtown's newest green gathering space, Wooster Green, at 4 p.m. Saturday to launch the opening celebration.

Enjoy the music of *Ginger & the Snaps* as well as local food trucks, ice cream and children's activities. The *Right Direction*, a BMX Bike & Scooter Demo Show, will take place during the event. A monitored parking corral will be available for bikes. A *Find It in BG Discount Flyer* will be distributed from the info booth for dining and shopping in our downtown and community.

The Wooster Green is one block away from our downtown shopping and dining for afternoon-into-evening fun for the whole family.

More details to come in the next newsletter!

downtown shopping and dining nearby.

On Sunday morning, the Bowling Green High School Band will host a pancake breakfast as well as a grab-and-go option to get you off on your GOBA adventure. Bon Voyage from BG!

Fremont

Day 1: Sunday, June 16

We are so excited to welcome GOBA to Sandusky County, Ohio! Fremont has a wide array of activities, events and restaurants for you to enjoy during your stay. Our team has worked tirelessly to create a fun Father's Day weekend just for you. Fremont Mayor Danny Sanchez will be on site to welcome you to our county seat as you arrive on Sunday.

We have campsites available on the grounds at Terra State Community College; however, you also have the option to reserve a floor-sleeping space inside the Neeley Center (on the Terra grounds). We have also



reserved a block of rooms at the local Comfort Inn & Suites (840 Sean Ave, Fremont). Please contact them directly at 419-355-9300 and mention that you're reserving with GOBA.

Free transportation will be available to take you and your families off the Terra campus. These buses will be available throughout the afternoon and evening to drop you at our various planned activities and restaurants. We will have a complete schedule available for you in the next newsletter.

We are excited to introduce you to some of our fine local restaurants during your stay. Buses will take you to Historic Downtown Fremont, where you will be able to experience

History and fun for the family!

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUMS

GOBA riders of all ages won't want to miss the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums at Spiegel Grove, the estate of the 19th president (1877-1881) and his wife, Lucy. The estate includes the beautifully preserved 31-room Hayes Home with original furnishings and artifacts; the renovated museum with two floors of exhibits and original artifacts; the president's tomb; and 25 acres of wooded grounds.

The estate is extending its hours for GOBA and will be open from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 16. Admission will include:

- Tours of the Hayes Home and museum.
- Kids activities throughout the day. Children can make their own campaign ribbon and work on coloring pages, puzzles, etc. Also, adults can make the campaign ribbons, if they would like.
- Photo booth with presidential cutouts.
- Museum scavenger hunt for kids.
- Hands-on artifact activities throughout the day (all ages). Wear the same white preservation gloves our curators wear and hold a piece of history! Our staff will bring out some artifacts from our collections, let guests carefully handle them and share the stories behind them.

Watch for more details in the May Newsletter and on goba.com.

The Garrison, Down Thyme Café and the Live Edge Center. (We will also have these restaurants available during your return trip through Fremont on GOBA's optional layover day ride on Wednesday, June 19.) Food will also be available in camp from the Tree Top Café at Terra State.

We have planned entertainment and activities that are sure to please! There will be a magic show, crafts and a movie on the Terra grounds. Swimming will be available at the local Recreation Center, and there will be special tours available at the Rutherford B. Hayes Library and Museums and the Sandusky County Historic Jail. A new band featuring Terra Community College students and staff will play in the evening on the Terra grounds.

We look forward to meeting you personally as you bike through our county this summer. For further information on Sandusky County and Fremont, please contact the Sandusky County Convention and Visitors Bureau tour coordinator at: sales@sanduskycounty.org or visit our website: www.sanduskycounty.org.

Port Clinton

**Days 2-4: Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday**

We couldn't be more excited to welcome GOBA back to Ohio's Lake Erie Shores & Islands. We are honored to host the first three-night layover in GOBA history.



GOBA camp will be located in the waterfront city of Port Clinton, the Walleye Capital of the World. Whether you are visiting for the first time or have already created some lifelong memories in our destination, we urge you to visit our website at SHORESandISLANDS.com. There, you can find an index of all our lodging properties, for those looking for options outside of the camp site, as well as detailed information on attractions in the area. From local hotels to bed & breakfasts and everything in between, we have somewhere to stay for every GOBA rider seeking some of the comforts of home.

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Port Clinton will offer a discount room rate to all riders. For those who prefer to research their stay or would like to learn more about our destination, a good place to start is the 2019 Travel Guide, found at the bottom of our webpage. View a digital copy of our Travel Guide or request to have one mailed to you at no charge to make sure you are ready for everything Port Clinton and the surrounding area has to offer!

We have been working hard with the GOBA staff to make sure you have a memorable stay that shows off our majestic lakefront. Activities will include trips to historic Lakeside Chautauqua, Liberty Aviation Museum and Marblehead Lighthouse. Make sure you set aside some time to take the short ferry ride to one of our fantastic islands. Port Clinton is just a short ferry to South Bass Island, home to Put-in-

Bay, as well as Middle Bass and Kelleys Island. An island for every traveler, maybe you are interested in working your way through some of the best restaurants on the lake with the Put-In-Bay Foodie Trail, or maybe you would like to step back in time to visit the Glacial Grooves of Kelleys Island, the largest and best accessible example of this geological phenomenon anywhere in the world! If you are looking to kick back and relax, just a short ride from GOBA camp, you will find Water Works Park and its wonderful beachfront -- and be sure to get your picture taken with our "Lake Erie Love" sign while you are there!

We are counting down the days till sunny weather and hope you are excited to Start Coasting! If you have any questions about lodging or attractions, please give us a call at 419.734.4386 or send an email to info@SHOREsandISLANDS.com.

Lakeside Chautauqua

For more than 145 years, Lakeside Chautauqua has welcomed families to the Lake Erie shore to take part in a summer Chautauqua experience dedicated to nurturing mind, body, and spirit. It is an historic community that offers spiritual opportunities, educational lectures, cultural arts performances, and recreational activities during Memorial Day weekend and its 11-week summer programming season. Quaint shopping, unique restaurants, and a variety of accommodations complete the experience.

Liberty Aviation Museum

Liberty Aviation Museum showcases operational, historical aircraft and vehicles including "Georgie's Gal", a WWII B-25 Mitchell Bomber; a U.S. Navy WWII TBM Avenger; PT-boat; and more. Witness the restoration of a 1929 Ford Tri-Motor and dine in

the 1950s-era themed Tin Goose Diner.

Marblehead Lighthouse State Park

Marblehead Lighthouse State Park features picnic facilities, fishing, walking trails and the Marblehead Lighthouse, in use since 1822. Climb the 77 steps of the oldest lighthouse in continuous operation on the Great Lakes. Guided tours are available daily 12-4 pm.

Johnson's Island Confederate Cemetery

This historic cemetery is the final resting place of more than 200 of the 9,000 Confederate soldiers once imprisoned here during the Civil War. The cemetery is in a private residential area on an island accessible by a causeway.

Put-in-Bay Foodie Trail

Whether your taste buds are craving Mexican, French, Italian, Irish or some truly-American dishes like Texas barbecue or New Orleans French Quarter Jambalaya, there is something for everyone on the Put-in-Bay Foodie Trail.

Glacial Grooves State Memorial

A National Natural Landmark, the Glacial Grooves on the north side of Kelleys Island are the largest easily accessible such grooves in the world and are accessible daily in season, weather-permitting, via ferry. From a walkway, footbridge, and stairs you can look down on the immense grooves, which are 400 feet long, 35 feet wide, and up to 10 feet deep, suggesting the tremendous power of the ice that formed them. Glacial Grooves Geological Preserve contains marine fossils that are 350 to 400 million years old. They were scoured into solid limestone bedrock about 18,000 years ago by the great

ice sheet which covered part of North America.

Oregon

Days 5-6: Thursday, Friday

GOBA riders won't be in a different state during their visit to Oregon, just a different state of mind.

Only 6 miles from downtown Toledo,



the city of Oregon offers both small-town charm and the excitement of being the closest overnight site to a major city in

GOBA's 31-year history.

Oregon has its own identity – a city of around 21,000 people that evolved out of a township and offers an interesting blend of bedroom community, industrial suburb, Lake Erie recreational gateway, and agricultural community with just over a 28 square mile footprint.

This urban-suburban combination means low-traffic cycling roads on the GOBA routes to and from our camp at Clay High School, as well as bike trails that provide access to parks, recreation facilities and the beach at Maumee Bay State Park. Multiple hotels and Toledo attractions – such as the National Museum of the Great Lakes and the Imagination Station hands-on science museum – are a short bus ride from camp.

The town coordinators in Oregon have put together a long "to-do" list of activities sure to delight GOBA riders. Among the highlights:

Thursday, June 20

YMCA OPEN SWIMMING: Come cool off after your ride in our Olympic size

GOBA NEWS BRIEFS

ELECTRICAL DEVICES

GOBA riders are responsible for their own equipment, including medical devices. GOBA is not able to provide electrical plug-ins and advises riders to look into battery-power devices.

MEDICAL PROFILES

GOBA riders and others on the tour are asked to fill out the Columbus Outdoor Pursuits online medical profile and event liability waiver. The information is kept confidential and used only in the event of a medical emergency to offer appropriate aid. If you did not fill out the questionnaire during registration, you can access it at <https://app.donorview.com/Mwb3>

BIKE SHIPPING

The CycleWerks Bicycle & Fitness shop at 248 S. Main St. in downtown Bowling Green can assemble bikes sent to the store and pack them to be sent home. Please check with the shop at 419-352-9375 on the availability of this service and deadlines. Customers will need to arrange with a third party for shipping to and from the store. Check at www.bikeflights.com for shipping rates. BikeFlights is a worldwide company which will ship both ways.

SAFETY PLEDGE

Safety is important on GOBA. Please review the Safety Pledge that will be sent to you via email. All riders will be asked to sign the pledge at check-in in order to receive their rider packets.

In addition, everyone, especially new riders and parents with kids under 14, is invited to the Safety Show (20 minutes), running continuously Saturday afternoon, June 15, starting at 2 p.m.

outdoor pool. Riders will enjoy our dual flume slides, diving board, deck games and concession stand. Open 12-7 p.m. \$3 per person, all ages. Includes shuttle bus. Locker rooms with showers also available. Call 419-691-3523 for more information or visit ymcatoledo.org.

DOWNTOWN TOLEDO: "Hensville Downtown Toledo Experience." Includes Tony Packo's restaurant and much more! Free.

PRO BASEBALL GAME: Toledo Mud Hens baseball game. \$15, which includes shuttle bus (watch for signup at goba.com).

FAMILY FUN: Oregon Parks & Rec activities for kids and families. Pickle ball, volleyball court, fitness court and splash pad. Free.

BARBECUE DINNER: Clay High School BBQ Dinner, \$8.

YOGA CLASSES: \$5

inflatables, jumbo foosball tables. Free.

YMCA OPEN SWIMMING: Come cool off after your ride in our Olympic size outdoor pool. Riders will enjoy our dual flume slides, diving board, deck games and concession stand. Open 12-7 p.m. \$3 per person, all ages. Includes shuttle bus. Locker rooms with showers also available. Call 419-691-3523 for more information or visit ymcatoledo.org.

YOGA CLASSES: \$5

SHOWTIME: (Tentative.) Performance by Oregon Community Theatre or Clay Band. \$5

FOOD TRUCKS: At Clay High School

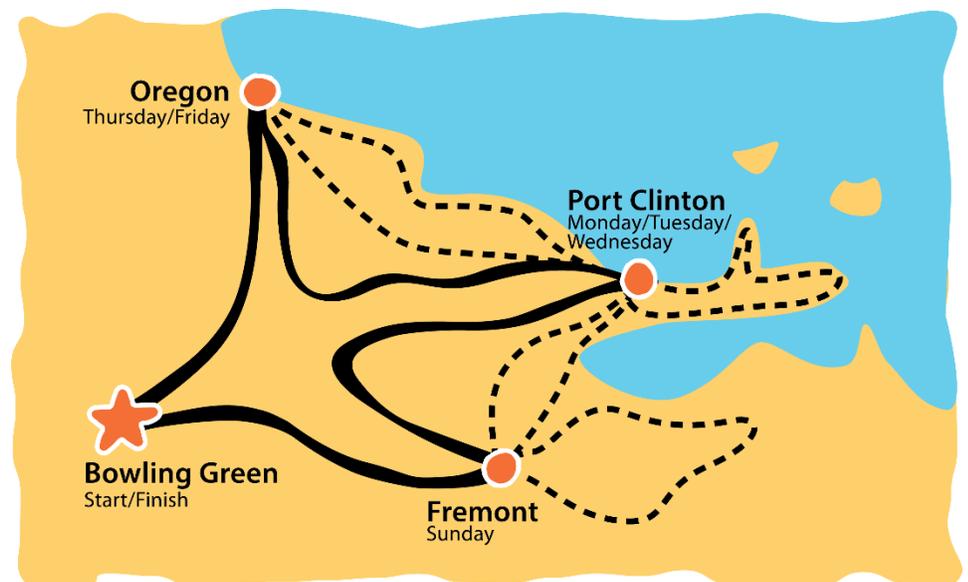
SONG CONTEST AND CONCERT: GOBA Song Contest, then a concert by the pop, rock and country band Mess with Emily (<https://messwithemily.com>) on the outdoor stage in the Clay football stadium.

Friday, June 21

FAMILY FUN: Oregon Parks & Rec activities for kids and families. Pickle ball, Frisbee golf course, fitness court, volleyball court, splash pad, Family Outdoor Movie Night,

Saturday, June 22

SIT-DOWN BREAKFAST: Chris Cakes, 6-9 a.m. at Clay. \$6.



ALTERNATIVE LODGING OPTIONS

GOBA is first and foremost a camping tour. However, if you want to stay in a hotel or B&B, check directly with the property or the local visitors bureau – see the Alternative Lodging page on the GOBA website for links. Make your own arrangements, including transport at your own expense. Hotels may or may not be on the free bus shuttle route in each overnight community; however we hope to announce plans by May for a low-cost service that will shuttle you and your bike to and from off-site lodging.

INDOOR FLOOR SPACE

Floor sleeping may be very limited, since stringent fire regulations limit the facilities that can offer this. All space is first-come, first-served. Local nonprofit groups secure the facilities and the fee you pay goes entirely to them. Some may take reservations and payment through the GOBA website, and others may not. Here is the status for each overnight town:

BOWLING GREEN – The local committee is seeking a group to offer floor space in a building at the fairgrounds.

FREMONT – Air-conditioned sleeping will be offered for \$20 on Sunday night in the Neeley Conference Center at Terra State. Register at <https://app.donorview.com/qqRZ>

PORT CLINTON – The local committee is seeking a group to offer floor space in a gym at the high school or adjacent middle school.

OREGON – Floor sleeping will be available for \$20 for two nights (\$10 per night) in the gym at Clay High School. Register at <https://app.donorview.com/qqRZ>

HOTELS

Several hotels in the GOBA overnight towns are offering discounts to riders. Call the hotel directly and ask for the GOBA discount. Most properties limit the number of rooms available for the discount and have a reservation deadline. The GOBA town committees have arranged the following discounts (prices do not include taxes; see goba.com for addresses and other details):

BOWLING GREEN

Best Western Falcon Plaza, \$119 (May 15 deadline; 419-352-4671)

Days Inn, \$99 (March 30 deadline; 419-419-1113)

Fairfield Inn, \$139 (May 15 deadline; 419-352-0033)

Hampton Inn, \$139 (May 15 deadline; 419-353-3464)

FREMONT

Comfort Inn, \$119 (two queens, nonsmoking; May 19 deadline; 419-355-9300)

PORT CLINTON

Holiday Inn Express, \$149 (two queens; 419-732-7322)

OREGON

Hampton Inn, \$112 (419-724-3333)

Holiday Inn Express, \$109 (standard double queen or standard king; 419-691-8800)

Maumee Bay State Park Resort, 15% discount on rooms, and specials in dining room (419-836-1466)

TownePlace Suites, \$139 king suite or \$149 two-queen suite (June 1 deadline; 419-724-0044)

Camping made easy!

Let Knight's Kingdom take the hassle out of camping on GOBA by doing the work while you focus on the food and the fun!

Purchase of GOBA camper services is online at goba.com unless noted otherwise. Refund requests must be made by May 15, 2019, and all refunds will be minus a \$20 processing fee. There will be no refunds in the event of cancellation due to natural disasters, acts of god or acts of terrorism.

DELUXE CAMPING SERVICE

Fee: \$350 single or \$600 double

Registration closes May 15, 2019.
No refunds after May 15, 2019.

WHAT YOU GET

- A Knight's Kingdom tent with set-up/tear-down in the Knight's Kingdom camping area. Let GOBA do the work for you!
- Air mattress
- Chair to use in camp
- Personalized luggage service
- Snacks and drinks
- Towels and washcloths

COMMUNITY CAMPING SERVICE

Fee: \$125

Registration closes May 15, 2019.
No refunds after May 15, 2019.

WHAT YOU GET

- Personalized luggage service to the Knight's Kingdom camping area
- Chair to use in camp
- Snacks and drinks
- Towels and washcloths

TOWEL SERVICE

Fee: \$25 before check-in on June 15, 2019, or \$30 at check-in

No refunds

WHAT YOU GET

- Clean and fresh towel and washcloth each day.
- You'll find the towel service every day near the shower trucks.

CHAIR SERVICE

Fee: \$25 before check-in on June 15, 2019, or \$30 at check-in

No refunds

WHAT YOU GET

- Chair to use in camp. Must be returned by 8 a.m. on departure days.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GOBA has several volunteer opportunities for riders and others:

PHOTOGRAPHER: We need someone with a good camera and photography skills to join our photo team, which takes pictures for use on the GOBA website and Smug Mug page, and in the 2019 scrapbook.

MASSAGE: Professional massage therapists from our host communities are needed to help in the massage tent during GOBA.

MEDICAL TEAM: Are you a doctor or nurse with a current license and insurance? Join the GOBA medical team that cares for riders in camp from the GOBA medical RV.

HAM RADIO: If you are a licensed amateur radio operator, join the GOBA HAMS and help keep riders safe on the road.

CAR CAMPER COORDINATOR: Direct car campers to the proper location in camp and check for credentials.

SAFETY CYCLE TEAM: Help with the Safety Show in Bowling Green on Saturday, June 15, and Sunday morning, June 16.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: The GOBA and local information tables need volunteers to help keep riders informed, distribute packets and load/unload the supply truck.

Interested? Please let us know via email at goba@outdoor-pursuits.org. Your message will be forwarded to the team



COMING IN MAY: NEWSLETTER PREVIEW

The next GOBA newsletter will be emailed in May. Also watch goba.com for information on these topics and much more!

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: Hop aboard an island ferry. Catch a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game in their beautiful downtown stadium. Visit a U.S. president's estate. We'll tell you how to do all that and more.

LAYOVER DAYS: There will be plenty for riders to do on and off the bike during GOBA's three layover days, including a lunch stop at the famous Lakeside Chautauqua.

FOOD STOPS: Learn more about the fun, interesting food stops on this year's GOBA routes.

BIKE PARADE: Saturday in Bowling Green as part of the kick-off festivities downtown

SONG CONTEST: Friday night in Oregon on the stage at the Clay High School football stadium.

GOLDEN GOBA: The dinner for riders on their 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th or 31st GOBA tour will be held in Port Clinton (date TBA)

ALTERNATIVE LODGING: An update on the availability of floor sleeping.

